



LIBRARY



BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

for the years

1939, 1940, 1941.

Together with the

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.



OSSETT:

S. COCKBURN AND SON, THE BOROUGH PRINTING WORKS
AND "OBSERVER" OFFICE.

Public Health Committee, 1941.

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR C. STEAD.

Members:

ALDERMAN H. OLDROYD (Mayor).

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„ G. MOORHOUSE.

„ W. PATTERSON.

COUNCILLOR O. BETTLEY.

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„ W. A. SMITH.

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„ G. F. WILSON.

„ G. WYCHERLEY.

Co-opted Members:

MRS. G. MOORHOUSE.

MRS. L. FIRTH.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Child Welfare
and Ante-Natal Clinics:

JOHN S. COAD, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

BASIL WADE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor:

F. HOWES, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Medical Officer's Report for the years 1939, 1940 and 1941. The pressure of work during these three years of war has prevented me from giving an annual report, but, as the health of the Borough has maintained its pre-war standard, I feel that nothing has been lost by this omission. Following the instructions of the Ministry of Health, much of the pre-war report had been left out and I have to a great extent confined myself to statistics. A study of these figures shows no deterioration in the health of the Borough, and that, in common with the rest of the country, we have not suffered from any increase in epidemic diseases. Our death-rate is within normal limits, and there has been a slight increase in the birth-rate. It is also gratifying to observe that not only have the health services of the Borough been maintained, but in some instances they have been extended.

In conclusion I must thank my Chairman and the Committee for their help during these years and I would also like to mention the Voluntary Committee of the Child Welfare, who, even under present difficulties, are carrying on in an admirable manner.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN S. COAD.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area: 3,332 acres.

Population (Census, 1931): 14,834.

Estimated Population: 1939—14,280.
 1940—13,660.
 1941—13,660.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931): 3,721.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census, 1931): 3,793.

Rateable value of property within the Borough, 1939: £68,100.
 1940: £68,539.
 1941: £67,515.

Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated), 1939: £244.
 1940: £254.
 1941: £256.

The amount expended in Outdoor Relief during the three years is as follows:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Number of persons receiving Out-door Relief	549	369	350
Amount expended on Public Assistance	£9,878 17 9	£7,246 10 3	£5,502 10 3

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS.

	1939.		1940.		1941.	
	Live.	Still.	Live.	Still.	Live.	Still.
At Home	187	6	165	5	151	6
Moorlands Maternity Home ...	—	—	13	1	32	—
Staincliffe County Hospital ...	15	2	29	5	39	1
Other Maternity Hospitals ...	8	3	4	—	4	—
Total ...	210	11	211	11	226	7

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941
Legitimate ...	101	107	115	102	99	97	203	206	212
Illegitimate ...	4	3	9	3	2	5	7	5	14
	105	110	124	105	101	102	210	211	226

Birth Rate: 1939—14.7
 1940—15.4
 1941—16.5

Illegitimate Birth Rate: 1939—0.49
 1940—0.37
 1941—1.02

STILLBIRTHS.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941
Legitimate ...	5	8	1	5	3	5	10	11	6
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
	5	8	1	6	3	6	11	11	7

Rate per 1,000 total births: 1939—52.4
 1940—52.1
 1941—31.0

DEATHS.

	Males.			Females.			Total.		
	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941	1939	1940	1941
	102	111	97	96	121	104	198	232	201

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	2	1	1
Total Death Rate	13.8	16.9	14.7
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	36	72	52
Deaths from Measles	—	—	—
Deaths from Cancer	17	39	21
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	2	1	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years	—	1	—
Sudden Deaths	11	11	15
Maternal Mortality Rate	9.0	4.5	4.3

Deaths in stated causes under one year of age.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—
Pink Disease	1	—	—
Phagedena	1	—	—
Premature Birth	1	1	1
Congenital Heart	1	2	2
Atelectasis of Lungs	1	1	—
Broncho-pneumonia	—	4	1
Convulsions	—	3	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Enteritis	—	1	2
Bronchitis	—	1	—
Congenital astresia of small intestine	—	1	—
Meningitis	—	1	1
Icterus Neonatorum	—	1	—
Malnutrition	—	—	1
Marasmus	—	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	—	—	1
	8	16	12

The infantile mortality rate still maintains a fairly high figure, and, after a careful analysis of the problem, I find there are two main contributing factors:—

1. Almost one-third of the infant deaths are unavoidable, being due to congenital maldevelopment.
2. There is a very high death rate among the babies born in the slum areas of the town, which is in most cases due to definite neglect by the parents both before and after the birth of the child.

I am satisfied, however, that everyone who is engaged in looking after the children of the Borough is doing so conscientiously and to the very best of their ability.

CHILD WELFARE.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name.	Address.	Sessions.
Infant Welfare Clinic ...	Croft House ...	Monday, 2.30-4.30 p.m. Thursday, 2.30-4 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Do.	Twice Weekly, on 1st and 3rd Fridays
Post-Natal Clinic	Do.	Do.
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic	Do.	Weekly, Thursday, 2.0 p.m.
Treatment of Minor Ailments	Do.	Daily, 9.0 a.m.

Owing to the increasing attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic in 1938 it was decided to double the number of clinics, and the Thursday clinic was begun in January, 1939. The numbers of these clinics held during each of the three years 1939, 1940 and 1941 were 71, 90 and 86 respectively.

ATTENDANCES.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
New Registrations	200	230	263
Total Registrations	497	446	534
Average Attendances	56.6	44.7	51.3
Percentage of children in the Borough attending Clinic—			
(a) Under 1 year	65.2	59.1	72.5
(b) 2-5 years	47.3	37.2	40.3

FOOD.

	Dried Milk.			Accessory Foods.		
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1939.	1940.	1941.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sold	239 1 7	301 6 2	439 6 10	71 10 3	178 18 7½	334 12 4
Given free	38 16 5	25 4 10	10 15 0	14 12 8	10 15 5½	9 5 8

NATIONAL MILK AND VITAMIN SCHEME.

In order to maintain a good standard of health among the children under five and the expectant and nursing mothers, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food introduced

a scheme for the provision of milk and vitamins in July, 1940. The scheme has been altered on several occasions and at present it is as follows:—

Milk is provided at reduced rate or free of charge to all children up to five years of age and to expectant and nursing mothers.

Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juice are supplied to children up to three years of age and children from three to five are entitled to a supply of Cod Liver Oil.

In this Borough approximately 853 people are entitled to cheap milk and 287 are obtaining milk free of charge. Of 493 children eligible for vitamins, 418 are obtaining them.

This scheme is proving of great assistance in maintaining the health of these classes of the population.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Number of Clinics held	23	23	24
Number of expectant mothers registered	134	115	148
Transferred from previous year ...	24	29	23
Total attending	158	144	171
Post-Natal cases attending	9	2	2
Mothers receiving Dental treatment	8	8	15
Cost of Dental treatment	£21 2 0	£18 3 6	£26 15 0

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS.

The Corporation have agreements with the Leeds Maternity Hospital and the Public Health Hospital at Staincliffe. The agreement with the Public Health Hospital was made in June, 1939, the Corporation accepting financial responsibility for cases of complicated labour and for cases where the home is unfit for a confinement. When expectant mothers wish to be confined in hospital and are neither complicated nor come from unsuitable homes they have to make a payment of £4 18s. 0d. to the Corporation prior to booking at the Staincliffe County Hospital. This £4 18s. 0d. covers the payment of a normal stay in hospital, i.e., 14 days.

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Minor Ailments	97	526	629
Dressings	134	526	676
Test Feeds	86	227	152
Impetigo	16	60	313
Scabies	—	25	37
Tinea	—	33	26

HEALTH VISITOR.

Number of visits paid during the year by the Health Visitor:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
To expectant mothers	6	4	16
To children under one year—			
First visits	192	215	192
Total visits	1221	1191	1224
To children between 1 and 5 years—			
Total visits	1496	1806	1214
In addition to the foregoing, visits have paid to cases of:—			
Infant life protection	16	—	—
Stillbirths	9	10	7
Miscellaneous	482	444	449
Evacuees	—	72	153
Total ...	3522	3742	3255

WATER.

Calendar year 1939 ...	194,428,000 gallons from Pildacre Waterworks
Calendar year 1940 ...	160,695,000 gallons from Pildacre Waterworks
	26,409,000 gallons from Batley Corporation
Total ...	187,104,000 gallons
Calendar year 1941 ...	180,993,000 gallons from Pildacre Waterworks
	8,464,000 gallons from Batley Corporation
	6,446,000 gallons from Wakefield Corporation
Total ...	195,903,000 gallons

Since the chlorinating apparatus was installed in September, 1939, there has been no adverse bacteriological count in the water, and from the chemical point of view the hardness has been maintained at a figure varying from 2·5–3·5 degrees hardness. In view of the high degree of softening I think it can be safely said that the water supply to this town is perfectly satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Number of cases notified (excluding Tuberculosis)	74	515	134
Number of cases removed to hospital (excluding Tuberculosis)	68	57	20

The following cases were notified:—

	1939.			1940.			1941.		
	No. of cases.	Re-moved to hosp.	Died.	No. of cases.	Re-moved to hosp.	Died.	No. of cases.	Re-moved to hosp.	Died.
Scarlet Fever	29	29	3	41	41	—	11	11	—
Diphtheria ...	37	37	4	16	16	1	8	8	1
Erysipelas ...	3	1	—	2	—	—	2	1	—
Anthrax ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	1	5	—	1	6	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	—	392	—	—	62	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	2	58	—	1	44	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—

Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable diseases in October, 1939.

The Corporation granted permission for the admission to hospital of certain cases of minor infectious disease at the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Minute is dated 20th November, 1941.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Facilities for immunisation are as follows:—

1. Special School Clinics.
2. At Child Welfare Clinics.
3. By the family doctor.

During the three years the following numbers took advantage of these services:—

Child Welfare.		School Clinic.	
1939—117	1940—37	1939—171	1940—100
1941—84		1941—106	

The risk of contracting Diphtheria has greatly increased as a result of war conditions, and the Ministry of Health are making determined efforts to immunise every child against this disease. The Health Services of the Borough, appreciating this fact, are doing everything within their power to obtain this ideal.

VACCINATION.

The numbers of children vaccinated against Smallpox were:—

1939—27

1940—29

1941—17

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There have been no cases of the above notified during any of the three years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Number of cases notified (Pulmonary)	8	6	4
Number of cases notified (Non-Pulmonary)	7	1	4
Death Rate from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ... ..	.42	.36	.43
Death Rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) ... ..	.49	.51	.43

There has been no increase in the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis, either of the Pulmonary or the Non-Pulmonary type. This is particularly satisfactory, as the figures of this country as a whole are showing a slight rise. We can attribute this happy state of affairs to the fact that in Ossett we have not had to endure the overcrowding, the shelter conditions, nor the air raids to anything like the extent to which other less fortunate areas of the country have been subjected.

APPENDIX 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1939, 1940, 1941.

Cause of Death.	1939.		1940.		1941.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	2	1	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	1	—	1	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	3	1	—	1	—
6. Influenza	—	1	2	2	1	1
7. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	1	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	3
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	2	3	2	2	4
10. Other Tuberculosis	—	1	2	—	—	—
11. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	3	—	—	1
12. General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer	11	6	21	18	8	13
14. Diabetes	—	1	2	2	—	3
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	8	7	13	18	17	20
16. Heart Disease	27	33	25	27	24	14
17. Aneurysm	—	1	—	—	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	9	5	5	2	2	1
19. Bronchitis	6	2	5	14	7	16
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	5	6	4	7	6	4
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	1	3	1	—
22. Peptic Ulcer	2	—	—	—	1	—
23. Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—	1	1	1
24. Appendicitis	—	—	—	1	—	1
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Other Liver Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	2	—	7	1	4
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	7	6	7	2	2	6
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Diseases ...	—	2	—	1	—	1
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	2	4	5	5	1
32. Senility	3	2	2	2	4	3
33. Suicide	—	1	1	—	1	1
34. Other Violence	3	—	2	2	1	2
35. Other Defined Diseases	8	11	7	4	12	4
36. Ill-defined or not known ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
37. Diarrhœa (2 years and over) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	102	96	111	121	97	104

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR,
Year ended 31st December, 1941,
together with Statistics for Years 1939 and 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The report I now present for your consideration is most unusual in that it relates to the past three years, viz.: 1939, 1940 and 1941, and I trust that the reasons for this unusual procedure will be appreciated.

From 1939 onwards a burden of additional duties was placed on local authorities and their officers, and my Department has been no exception in this connection. Air Raid Precaution duties have occupied a prominent position in my daily routine, and in common with other of your officers the demands of the service have not been confined to official working hours. Services under my charge include the Decontamination of Streets and Buildings, Salvage of Household Effects and Building Materials, and the Treatment and Disposal of Foodstuffs contaminated by Gas. In addition, salvage operations were set in motion at an early stage of the war, and this work has had a full measure of attention.

A serious consumer of time is the unrestricted flow of new Orders, Regulations and Amendments. Considerable time is spent on reading the numerous documents, many of which are involved and not a little intricate. A more simple and direct approach to the subject matter would, I feel sure, be welcomed at the receiving end of the line.

Another factor of considerable importance was the loss in manpower suffered early in the war. Mr. Curtis, Additional Sanitary Inspector, was called for service in the Field Hygiene Section of the R.A.M.C. in December, 1939. His position was not filled, and further complications were experienced from time to time by losses in the junior staff.

It will be readily appreciated that circumstances have changed considerably since I penned my last report, with the inevitable result that certain routine work has not had the attention customary in normal times.

The building of new houses for Slum Clearance was brought to a halt in 1939, with much of our approved programme uncompleted. The demand for houses is reflected in the number of requests I get for help—many of them from local people. It is with regret and some concern that so many are turned away unsatisfied in their quest for better accommodation. There can be no doubt that housing will be one of the major post-war tasks confronting local authorities, and it is not inappropriate that the matter should be constantly in mind.

Another branch of work to suffer is privy conversions, and further substantial progress cannot be expected until the return of more normal times. During the past three years the privy type of closet has been reduced by sixty-nine (fifty-eight converted to water closets and eleven abolished).

Control of certain food supplies was responsible for a radical change in the meat trade. The use of private slaughter-houses for home killed meat is, for the time being, prohibited. Centralised slaughtering for this and neighbouring districts operates in a nearby town, and local supplies are received in bulk at a central point for allocation to the individual butchers. For some time after the change took place, transportation and handling of the meat left much to be desired—vehicles were unsuited to this work and the personnel employed was unused to handling butchers' meat. I am pleased to say that improvements were effected and causes for complaint were considerably reduced. The change made visits to private slaughter-houses unnecessary, and supervision is maintained by regular routine visits to the allocation centre on receiving days.

Salvage operations are responsible for an extension of our collection periods, and have made necessary the employment of additional labour. The increased cost involved is offset by the income derived from the sales of recovered materials. The provision of trailers enabled the two motor vehicles to keep the work going, although there have been times when the overtaking of arrears of work has been a somewhat slow and gradual business. Overtime has to be worked, but this is kept as reasonable as possible in view of the lessened output due to increased fatigue when excessive hours are worked. Particulars of salvage sold and the income derived therefrom appear under the section of the report dealing with Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Other matters of interest appear under appropriate headings in the report, and in conclusion I desire to express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and all Members of the Committee for the kindly consideration given to matters brought to your notice.

I would like to record my appreciation for the continued co-operation and ready assistance given by the Officers of the Council in matters of mutual interest and concern.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. WADE,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall, Ossett,
August, 1942.

HOUSING.

From 1940 onwards there has been a complete cessation of house building in your district. Municipal as well as private projects were postponed or discontinued. The Council was fortunate in that there were no partially completed structures on the estate, but work in connection with a further batch of seventy houses did not get beyond the stage of obtaining tenders. There is therefore nothing to report on Slum Clearance, except the disposal of twenty-two Clearance Areas which were outstanding at the close of 1938. Owners of four of the Areas had intimated their intention to oppose the Orders, and in consequence, a Public Enquiry was held on the 7th February, 1939. Ultimately all the twenty-two Areas were confirmed as Clearance Areas. The number of houses involved was 92, and the number of occupants 325.

The number of houses erected and occupied on the Swithenbank Estate is 104 and there are 5 at Queen's Drive.

Displacements from Clearance Areas were as follows:—

Year.	Number of houses vacated.	Number of persons displaced.	No. of families re-housed.	
			Corporation houses.	Private houses.
1939	36	185	27	9
1940	7	24	—	7
1941	9	22	—	9

The following table gives particulars of the Clearance Areas referred to above:—

Name of Area.	No. of houses.	No. of occupants.	Date of Representation to Council.	Order confirmed (date).	Remarks.
Mitchell's Yard, Dale Street	10	50	12/9/38	Yes 10/2/39	Unopposed
Spa Street No. 1	5	26	12/9/38	Yes 10/2/39	Unopposed
The Green No. 1	10	35	12/9/38	Yes 10/2/39	Unopposed
Radley Street No. 3	6	28	12/9/38	Yes 10/2/39	Unopposed
Owl Lane No. 1	6	31	12/9/38	Yes 10/2/39	Unopposed
Owl Lane No. 2	5	16	12/9/38	Yes 10/2/39	Unopposed
High Street, Gawthorpe, No. 2	3	9	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
High Street, Gawthorpe, No. 3	5	12	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
High Street, Gawthorpe, No. 4	4	12	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Opposed. Inquiry held 7/2/39
High Street, Gawthorpe, No. 5	6	17	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
High Street, Gawthorpe, No. 6	2	6	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
High Street, Gawthorpe, No. 7	2	11	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Opposed. Inquiry held 7/2/39
Nettleton's Yard, High Street, Gawthorpe	2	12	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Opposed. Inquiry held 7/2/39
School Street, Gawthorpe, No. 3	3	10	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
Cross Street and School Street, Gawthorpe	5	7	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
Leeds Road No. 2	2	5	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
Brook's Yard, The Green	4	13	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
David Street No. 2	3	1	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
Harrop's Yard, The Green, No. 1	2	2	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
The Green No. 2	2	6	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Opposed. Inquiry held 7/2/39
Intake Lane No. 1	3	9	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed
South Street No. 1	2	7	9/11/38	Yes 24/5/39	Unopposed

Overcrowding.

It is not possible to draw an accurate picture of the present position, but certain well defined reasons are responsible for the conclusion that an increase in overcrowding has taken place.

Continued co-operation between the Housing and Public Health Departments has been responsible for changes for the better in a small number of cases. Under prevailing circumstances assistance to overcrowded families is limited and will so remain until house building is resumed.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
(a) By the Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By private enterprise	26	—	—

Inspection of dwelling-houses:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	226	125	87
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	412	234	136

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The gradual elimination of the privy type of closet has suffered a set-back, and little further progress can be expected until times are more normal.

During the period under review 58 privies were converted to water closets and 11 privies abolished. Three hundred and four dustbins were provided in substitution of 48 wet and 50 dry ashpits. Three slop (tipper) closets were converted to water closets and 38 additional water closets were provided to existing property.

The following table gives details of improvements effected during 1939, 1940 and 1941:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Privies converted to water closets ...	37	20	1
Slop (tipper) closets converted to water-closets	—	3	—
Privies abolished	7	3	1
Pail closets abolished	—	—	—
Additional water-closets provided to existing buildings	7	29	2
Water-closets provided to new buildings	26	—	—
Ashpits (wet) abolished	31	15	2
Ashpits (dry) abolished	47	2	1
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits	268	22	14
Ashbins provided for new buildings ...	27	—	—

The following table shows the existing sanitary accommodation at the end of 1941:—

Privies in connection with ashpits	...	...	142
Slop (tipper) closets	...	...	55
Water closets	...	...	3976
Pail closets	...	...	6
Trough closets	...	...	69
Ashpits in connection with privies	...	...	113
Ashpits (dry)	...	...	128
Ashbins	...	...	4235

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

During 1939, 5,398 meat carcasses were inspected, involving 978 visits to slaughter-houses. In 1940, 276 food animals slaughtered in the district were inspected, and in 1941 inspections were made of 30 locally slaughtered pigs.

In January, 1940, slaughtering in private slaughter-houses was discontinued, and from then onwards all butchers' meat coming into the town has been "off the hook." The dead meat is delivered to a central point for allocation and re-distribution to individual butchers. Under this system, supervision has been maintained by regular routine visits to the allocation centre on receiving days.

For continuity of records the following condensed table of carcasses inspected, etc., is included:—

Carcases Inspected and Percentage of Animals Found Diseased.

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Totals.
1939.						
Number inspected	641	109	12	1,417	3,219	5,398
Number found diseased	70	22	—	5	448	545
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease	10·92	20·18	—	0·35	13·91	10·09
1940.						
Number inspected	44	13	1	106	112	276
Number found diseased	4	2	—	—	17	23
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease	9·09	15·46	—	—	15·17	8·33
1941.						
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	30	30
Number found diseased	—	—	—	—	3	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease	—	—	—	—	10 00	10·00

The total quantity of fresh meat and offals surrendered and destroyed during the past three years is as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.	
1939	3	13	10½	(Whole carcasses—Beasts 3, Pigs 2)
1940	—	12	66	(Whole carcasses—Beasts 2, Pigs 1)
1941	—	—	58	

Tinned Food.

The volume and variety of tinned foods has increased greatly. Effects of sea and land transport—often under trying and difficult conditions—and hurried handling for clearance at the ports, has made necessary the inspection of a large quantity of these goods. In the circumstances, losses were inevitable, and the quantity found unfit for human food is no reflection on the general quality of the goods.

Particulars of tinned food unfit for human food are as follows:—

Year.	Meat.	Milk.	Vegetables.	Fruit.	Totals.	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Cwts.	lbs.
1940	10	—	—	—	—	10
1941	542	944½	74½	335	16	104

Meat Marking.

During 1939, 849 pigs were marked, at a fee of sixpence per carcase. The income for the year was £21 4s. 6d.

Marking was discontinued in December, 1939.

Milk.

In matters of food production, farmers have a responsibility hitherto unknown, not least of which is the maintenance of our liquid milk supplies. Notwithstanding their past efforts, a target figure much higher than anything previously attempted has been set, and, to accomplish the task, problems connected with feeding and labour will have to be faced and solved. With regard to labour, it would appear that local prejudice and conservatism will have to disappear and use be made of labour provided by the Women's Land Army.

The general quality of milk has been fairly well maintained, and complaints of souring have not been serious. When complaint has occurred, it has usually been found that the milk in question has been imported into the district from outside Wholesale Dairies. I estimate that if the whole of the milk produced in Ossett was retained for use in the Area, we should be self-supporting and independent of outside sources of supply.

Number of registered cowkeepers	...	...	...	27
Number of registered cowsheds	...	...	...	29
Number of registered milk sellers	...	...	...	39
Number of licensed producers of " Accredited " milk				5
Number of licensed retailers of " Pasteurised " milk				3

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Three licences were issued for the retail sale of " Pasteurised " milk.

Five cowkeepers are licensed by the West Riding County Council to produce " Accredited " milk.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Routine disinfection of houses after cases of infectious disease has been fully maintained.

The steam disinfecter continues to operate satisfactorily. Repairs have been necessary to the tubes of the vertical boiler, and in consequence the working pressure has been reduced.

Vermin infestations are dealt with by fumigation and spraying with a proprietary insecticide.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out during 1939, 1940 and 1941:—

Year.	Houses disinfected.	Schools disinfected.	Houses treated for vermin.
1939	74	10	11
1940	77	7	11
1941	60	2	25

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The number of premises on the register is 4, viz.: 1 gut-scrapers, 1 tripe boiler, and 2 fellmongers.

There were no complaints in respect of these premises.

FACTORIES.

Sanitary improvements carried out at factories since my last report include the conversion of 10 privies and the provision of 7 additional water closets.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Spasmodic action continues as a general rule, and as a result rats and mice continue to eat, destroy and pillage our food. Conservation of food supplies should be sufficient incentive for determined action.

Assistance in baiting, etc., is available on request.

REFUSE COLLECTION, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL.

The data given in connection with this service refer to financial years, and not to calendar years as for the remainder of the report.

Staff.

Salvage operations and other incidental work, such as the daily collection of privy soil from certain premises, made a staff increase necessary. The employees now engaged number 11, viz.: 2 motor drivers, 6 loaders, 2 tipmen, and 1 paper baler, etc.

Transport.

Two motor vehicles, each with trailer, operate full time.

For the purpose of arriving at costs, each vehicle has been given a 5 years' life.

Disposal of Refuse.

Tipping is concentrated at your Flushdyke tip. The change of operations from the cricket field took place in June, 1940, as a result of action by the tenant of the adjoining house and nursery garden, when an undertaking was given that tipping of house refuse on this land would be discontinued and not recommenced.

Trade refuse suitable for pig feeding (fish offal and garbage) is disposed of with the kitchen waste.

Salvage.

The losses suffered in supplies of raw materials have made a corresponding increase in the importance of salvage of all kinds. Orders affecting householders and local authorities have been made for the compulsory recovery of several different classes of waste.

Price control has operated throughout for most of the commodities, and competition has been restricted to small mixed lots.

The demand will continue, and possibly grow more intense while the present conflict lasts. In view of the large volume of waste now being made to serve as raw material, one is tempted to speculate on the probable position when hostilities cease. The price factor cannot be ignored, and if a reasonable level can be maintained I have no doubt that salvage will continue to hold the interest of local authorities and the responsible officers.

The following tables show in detail the quantity of salvage sold and the income therefrom during the period under review:—

Tonnage (Salvage).

Material.	1939-1940.		1940-1941.		1941-1942.	
	Tons.	Cwts.	Tons.	Cwts.	Tons.	Cwts.
Waste Paper	8	18	116	6½	135	7¼
Unbaled Tins	8	4½	30	17¼	33	19
Kitchen Waste			13	8	93	6
Household Bones			1	18½	2	14¾
Textiles			1	1½	1	13¾
Scrap Iron			19	15¾	1	11¾
Aluminium				3¾		2
Brass, Zinc, etc.				15¼		8½
Bottles and Jars			2	11½	1	11
Total tonnage	17	2½	186	18	280	14½

Income (Salvage).

	1939-1940.	1940-1941.	1941-1942.
Total amount credited to Salvage	Nil (included in 1940-1941)	£ s. d. 615 7 5	£ s. d. 870 15 3

Costs.

Increased work has naturally had an effect on gross costs; other factors, such as wages increases and commodity prices (petrol, oil, etc.) and the daily latrine service have contributed towards increased tonnage costs. However, when allowance is made for increased income, the net cost for each of the past three years shows little variation.

For the time being the usual tables have been cut out, and in their place is a simple statement shewing cost-per-ton figures only.

With certain minor adjustments, costs are based on figures appearing in the Abstract of Accounts prepared by the Borough Treasurer.

Year.	Gross cost.	Income.	Nett cost.	Cost per ton (collection and disposal).
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
1939-40	1,932 12 2	28 3 11	1,904 8 3	7 1·3
1940-41	2,625 6 3	704 11 1	1,920 15 2	8 5·7
1941-42	3,050 6 7	1,074 8 11	1,975 17 8	9 1·6

CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

	1939.	1940.	1941.
Housing—Public Health and Housing Acts ...	412	234	136
Overcrowding	31	10	2
Verminous premises	12	12	25
Rat infested premises	11	12	8
Factories	75	22	13
Slaughter-houses	978	55	—
Meat Allocation Centre	—	73	95
Markets	47	51	34
Shops re food supplies	9	41	27
Cowsheds and dairies	55	17	20
Privies and ashpits	154	56	5
Offensive trade premises	5	7	—
Fried fish shops	2	—	—
Keeping of animals and offensive accumulations	9	9	7
Smoke	7	5	—
Refuse removal	94	3	5
Salvage	—	123	121
Drains inspected	123	145	47
Tips	82	99	51
Miscellaneous	201	82	77

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

DWELLING-HOUSES.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Light and ventilation improved	4	—	—
Rendered free from dampness	1	4	1
Roofs repaired	8	5	3
External walls repaired	4	—	2
Chimneys repaired	—	1	2
New sinks fixed	54	3	4
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	43	6	3
Eaves-gutters repaired or renewed	—	1	11
Fallpipes repaired or renewed	—	2	1
Windows repaired	2	—	2
Plasterwork repaired	6	6	3
Floors repaired	4	2	1
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	4	1	1
Coppers repaired or renewed	1	2	—
Cleansed and limewashed	3	2	2
Fallpipes disconnected from drains	15	14	6
Water removed from cellars	24	19	12
Treated for vermin (bugs, beetles, etc.) ...	5	13	19
Disinfected	74	77	60
Other defects remedied	4	16	3
WATER-CLOSETS.			
Provided in substitution of privies	37	20	1
Additional water-closets provided for existing property	7	29	2
Provided in substitution of slop (tipper) closets	—	3	—
Erected for new houses	26	—	—
Total number provided for houses	65	14	1
Total number provided for factories	5	10	2
Total number provided (other premises) ...	—	25	—
Cisterns repaired	9	8	2
Soil pipes repaired	3	2	2
New pedestals fixed	5	3	2
Provided with sufficient supply of water ...	3	2	3
Cleansed and limewashed	7	2	—

PRIVY MIDDENS.							1939.	1940.	1941.
Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	1
Converted to water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	20	1

ASHPITS.

Abolished (wet)	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	15	2
Abolished (dry)	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	2	1

ASHBINS.

Provided in lieu of ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	268	22	14
Provided for new houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	—	—
Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	27	13

DRAINS.

Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	4
Cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	30	39
Under houses abolished or gullies removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	3
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	17	2
Self-cleansing gullies provided	29	30	8
Vent shafts provided	19	8	2

SCHOOLS.

Disinfected	10	7	2
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OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS.

Removed	5	—	2
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SUMMARY.

							1939.	1940.	1941.
NUISANCES FOUND.									
Number found during year	260	153	133
Number brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	22	19
Number abated during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	253	156	126
Number outstanding end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	19	26

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	141	92	90
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	94	79
Statutory notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	263	27	26
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	213	57	46

